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Peking Base in Paris

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Paris

In a large apartment on the fashionable Rue Francisque-Pierre, not far from the House of the Chinese Communist, a new headquartered a massive propaganda effort reaching out to the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and the United States.

At No. 40 of this street, in the heart of Paris near the Champs Elysées, the visitor asks the concierge for the apartment of Jacques Verge, a well-known international Communist and editorial director of the French and English-language editions of *Revolution*, a slick paper monthly magazine committed to the Chinese Communist point of view.

Gibson's Role

Up and down on the stairs two Chinese men disappeared through the unmarked door of the No. 40 apartment. Inside, a room decked high with portraits of revolutions and伟人, Mao Tse-tung, and Ho Chi Minh, I was greeted by a young American, Richard Gibson.

Under the overall direction of Verge, Mr. Gibson is in charge of the English-language version of *Revolution*. He is a former graduate of both Harvard and the University of the Philippines, and, along with a son, a native of Pakistan, a son of Mao in Zanzibar, himself, cholera in Venezuela, father, Kien of Vietnam, has-

san Blvd of the United Arab Republic, and Castro in Silva of Angola.

Mr. Babu now is Foreign Minister of the new revolutionary government of Zanzibar. An editorial footnote in the latest French issue of *Revolution* sends him the warm congratulations of his editorial colleagues and wishes him and the "people of Zanzibar new success in the struggle against feudalists and neocolonialists."

The English edition of *Revolution* is printed in Switzerland, presumably at the modern printing plant which the Chinese Communist Government recently bought at Bern. The magazine is in its ninth monthly issue and has reached a circulation, according to Mr. Gibson, of about 6,000 copies.

Of this monthly total the Chinese Communists buy 3,600 copies, distributing them throughout English-speaking Africa. About 1,000 copies go to the island of Zanzibar.

Nigeria also receives many copies, Mr. Gibson said, but Ghana none, for the reported reason that periodic distribution in that country is handled by the London Daily Mirror and *Revolution* has not been able to crack the distribution circuit.

Printed in Paris

Apart from the 6,000 copies taken by the Chinese Communists, 300 subscribers in Egypt buy *Revolution*. About 1,100 copies go to the United States, primarily to student groups in southern cities. This would unify a Negro readership.

Mr. Verge is variously reported to have been born in Réunion Island, a French overseas department in the Indian Ocean, or in Thailand, of a Chinese father and Vietnamese mother. Mr. Verge's brother died, also a Communist, was defeated for a seat in the French National Assembly by former French Premier Michel Debre in a by-election on Réunion Island in May, 1963.

The French language edition of *Revolution*, a larger and slicker presentation than its counterpart in English, is printed in Paris and has a circulation of 17,000-19,000 copies.

ies, asserted to be larger than any other left-wing publication in France.

The Chinese Communists, Mr. Gibson said, buy 100 copies of this edition, but hide the cover of the February, 1964 issue (No. 6), subscribers are offered free, a weekly summary of Chinese Communist news called "Peking Information." Also offered free of charge are any or all of some 60 titles of books and other publications published in the French language at Peking.

Neither edition of *Revolution* carries advertising, except of other Communist publications friendly to Peking. A copy of either edition costs 75 cent., or its equivalent in other currencies. Given the quality of their printing and small circulation, both editions must be heavily subsidized.

Spanish Edition

Mr. Gibson asserted that no one party dictated the editorial line of *Revolution*, though the magazine agreed with the Chinese Communist position in "sharp dispute." The magazine would be considered an offshoot by the Soviet-oriented French Communist Party.

Now in the advanced printing state are a Spanish edition, to be printed in Paris and aimed primarily at Latin America, and an Italian-language edition, to be printed in Italy. Both are intended to appear this year. A German-language edition, "Prometheo," to be printed in Hamburg, will be planned, according to Mr. Gibson.

Articles in the latest English-language *Revolution* include "The Class Struggle in Africa," "What Kind of Independence for Angola?" "Support the Panamanian People's Just Struggle," and "The Meaning of Black Revolt in the USA." Appearing in the February issue of the French "*Revolution*" are "15 Days With the Venezuelan Maquis," "Gongga Revolt in South Africa," "Spain in Movement," "Pakistan: the Borden of American Aid," and others.

On the ground floor of the Verge apartment building is a shop selling expensive cars. Across the street is Dior, the ultimate symbol of capitalism. A few doors away is the Norwegian Embassy.